Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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LETTER DATED 7 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ARGENTINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the International Organizations at Geneva has the honour to request, on behalf of Argentina and Chile, that the following declarations be distributed as official documents of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons:

- Joint Declaration on the Transport of Radioactive Waste, issued by the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay on 17 January 1997;

- Declaration of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) concerning the transport of radioactive waste, dated 5 February 1998;

- Paragraph 23 f of the Declaration of San Salvador on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, issued by the Organization of American States (OAS) on 27 February 1998.

GE.98-61294 (E)

Annex 1

JOINT DECLARATION ON THE TRANSPORT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE

The Governments of the Argentine Republic, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Chile and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay:

Wishing, within the framework of the excellent relations they enjoy with the Governments of Japan, France and the United Kingdom and before another transport of radioactive waste from European ports to Japan takes place, to reiterate their concern about the risks that the transport, by virtue of the intrinsically dangerous nature of the shipment, represents for the health of their inhabitants and for the marine environment of the region through which the transit will take place;

Expressing furthermore their concern at the possibility that future shipments may use the Cape Horn route, which presents risks for navigation owing to its physical and meteorological characteristics and the vulnerability of the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic ecosystems, and recalling, in this connection, that the principles of international law and the relevant national legislation give coastal States jurisdiction with respect to the protection and preservation of the marine environment in their respective exclusive economic zones in order to prevent, reduce and control contamination in this environment;

Drawing attention also to the undesirability of such shipments taking place in future with a gradual increase in the quantity and/or hazardousness of the material transported each time;

DECLARE:

1. Their grave concern at the risks associated with the transit through the region of ships transporting radioactive waste;

2. Their intention to adopt, in waters under their jurisdiction, measures recognized by international law to protect the health of their inhabitants and their marine ecosystems;

3. The need to strengthen, within the competent international organizations, the regulations governing the transport of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, which, inter alia, should include: guarantees regarding the non-contamination of the marine environment; exchange of information on the routes selected; an obligation to communicate to coastal States the contingency plans that will be applied in the event of an accident; the commitment to recover the radioactive waste in the event of incidents involving ships transporting waste; and payment of compensation in the event of injury and damage;

4. Their support for the work on the revision and negotiation of the Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and the convention on the safe management of radioactive waste and the safety of spent nuclear fuel that is taking place within IAEA and the review of the Code for the Safe Carriage of Irradiated Nuclear Fuel (INF Code), which should be made mandatory.

Buenos Aires, 17 January 1997

Annex 2

AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

TREATY OF TLATELOLCO
OPANAL

JOINT DECLARATION ON THE TRANSPORT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE

The Member States and Observer States of the Council of OPANAL and in general the States Parties to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), in view of the imminent passage through the zone of application of the said Treaty of a shipment of radioactive waste from France to Japan through the Panama Canal, and in the context of the good relations which they maintain with the Governments of Japan, France and the United Kingdom,

1. Reiterate their profound concern about the risks that the transit of such highly radioactive waste represents for the health and lives of their inhabitants and for the preservation of the marine and land environment of the region;

2. Express also their deep concern about the probability that other vessels with similar dangerous cargoes may in the future seek to use this or other shipping routes near their coasts, and about the risks which they pose not only for the national maritime areas but especially for their peoples and the ecosystem in general, in a region recognized as the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in the world;

3. Confirm their intention to consider, if necessary, the adoption of measures available to them under international law and their respective national laws on the matter in order to protect and preserve the health of their inhabitants and the marine ecosystem in the zones subject to their jurisdiction;

4. Appeal to the international community to strengthen, within the international organizations, the strict regulations governing the transport of such radioactive material, which must make it obligatory to provide guarantees regarding safety measures, prevention of contamination, contingency plans in the event of disasters and the exchange of relevant information with the countries concerned;

5. Make a firm appeal to the Governments of France, Japan and the United Kingdom to undertake to observe fully the international legal requirements on the matter, especially the provisions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);

6. Lastly, reaffirm their support for the statements of the General Conference of OPANAL on the matter, especially Resolution CG/Res.299 (XIII) on the Prevention of Radioactive Contamination of the Marine Environment within the Framework of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, adopted on 27 May 1993; Resolution CG/Res.332 (XIV) on the Maritime Transport of Radioactive Waste, adopted on 29 March 1995; and Resolution CG/E/Res.386 (E-XII) on the Strengthening of OPANAL, adopted on 14 November 1997, as well as all other international legal provisions issued by other international organizations on the subject.

Mexico City, 5 February 1998

Annex 3

DECLARATION OF SAN SALVADOR ON CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES

(Adopted at the fifth plenary session, held on 28 February 1998)

The States members of the Organization of American States, meeting at the San Salvador Regional Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in follow-up to the Santiago Conference:

Convinced of the importance of the confidence- and security-building process, and of the implementation of measures such as those identified in the Declaration of Santiago, for the consolidation of a region inspired by democratic values and sustained by a culture of peace, agree to recommend the application, in the most appropriate manner, of additional measures including the following: ...

f. Develop a cooperation programme to address the concerns raised by maritime transport of nuclear and other waste, and to cooperate and coordinate in the relevant international fora to strengthen standards governing such transport and its safety.